

Amendments to the Claims

Following is a complete listing of the claims pending in this application including any amendments:

1. (currently amended) A method for assaying an interaction between a test agent and a lipid bilayer-associated component, comprising:

providing a surface detector array device, said device comprising a substrate having a surface defining a plurality of distinct bilayer-compatible surface regions separated by one or more bilayer barrier regions, said bilayer-compatible surface regions and said bilayer barrier regions being formed of different materials, a plurality of lipid bilayer expanses localized above said plurality of distinct bilayer-compatible surface regions, wherein said lipid bilayer expanses are localized above said surface regions in the absence of covalent linkages between said lipid bilayer expanses and said bilayer-compatible surface regions, and are separated therefrom by an aqueous film interposed between said bilayer-compatible surface regions and said corresponding lipid bilayer expanses, the lipid bilayer expanses having a component associated with the lipid bilayer expanse;

contacting said device with a bulk aqueous phase comprising a test agent that specifically binds to the lipid bilayer-associated component, whereby the membrane fluidity of at least one of the plurality of lipid bilayer expanses decreases when said test agent binds to said lipid bilayer-associated component; and

evaluating ~~a physical property~~ the fluidity of one or more of said lipid bilayer expanses.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~at least one of said plurality of lipid bilayer expanses further comprises~~ the lipid bilayer-associated component is selected from a protein, a nucleic acid, a glycolipid, a lipopolysaccharide, a sterol, a lipid-linked molecule, ~~or~~ and a fatty acid.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~at least one of said plurality of lipid bilayer expanses comprises~~ the lipid bilayer-associated component ~~is~~ a bacterial endotoxin.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~at least one of said plurality of lipid bilayer expanses comprises~~ the lipid bilayer-associated component ~~is~~ a label.

5. (original) The method of claim 4, wherein said label is attached to a target membrane component.

6. (original) The method of claim 4, wherein said label is attached to a background membrane component.

7. (original) The method of claim 4, wherein said label is selected from the group consisting of a fluorophore, an electron spin resonance label, a radioactive label, a semiconductor nanoparticle label, and a metallic nanoparticle label.

8-9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~9~~1, wherein said ~~membrane fluidity is evaluated using~~ evaluating the membrane fluidity comprises a method selected from the group consisting of fluorescence recovery after photobleaching, fluorescence anisotropy, fluorescence correlation spectroscopy, fluorescence resonance energy transfer, fluorescence resonance energy transfer microscopy, electrophoresis, and electrical molecular force microscopy.

11-25. (canceled)

26. (currently amended) A method for assaying an interaction between a test agent and a lipid bilayer-associated component, comprising:

providing a lipid bilayer ~~expanse~~ comprising a lipid bilayer-associated component; contacting said lipid bilayer ~~expanse~~ with a bulk aqueous phase comprising a test agent that binds to said lipid bilayer-associated component; and

evaluating the membrane fluidity of said lipid bilayer ~~expanse~~, wherein the membrane fluidity is affected when said test agent binds to the lipid bilayer-associated component.

27. (currently amended) The method of claim 26, wherein said lipid bilayer-associated component is selected from the group consisting of ~~expanse further comprises~~ a protein, a nucleic acid, a glycolipid, a lipopolysaccharide, a sterol, a lipid-linked molecule ~~or~~ and a fatty acid.

28. (currently amended) The method of claim 26, wherein said lipid bilayer-associated component ~~is expanse comprises~~ a bacterial endotoxin.

29. (currently amended) The method of claim 26, wherein said lipid bilayer-associated component ~~is expanse comprises~~ a label.

30. (original) The method of claim 29, wherein said label is attached to a target membrane component.

31. (original) The method of claim 29, wherein said label is attached to a background membrane component.

32. (original) The method of claim 29, wherein said label is selected from the group consisting of a fluorophore, an electron spin resonance label, a

radioactive label, a semiconductor nanoparticle label, and a metallic nanoparticle label.

33. (original) The method of claim 26, wherein said membrane fluidity is evaluated using a method selected from the group consisting of fluorescence recovery after photobleaching, fluorescence anisotropy, fluorescence correlation spectroscopy, fluorescence resonance energy transfer, fluorescence resonance energy transfer microscopy, electrophoresis, and electrical molecular force microscopy.

34. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the test agent is a small molecule.

35. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the test agent is a protein.

36. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the test agent comprises a surface of a cell, a vesicle, a phantom cell, a cell-vesicle, a liposome, a giant vesicle, a lipid-covered glass bead, or a component of any thereof.

37. (original) The method of claim 26, wherein the test agent is a small molecule.

38. (original) The method of claim 26, wherein the test agent is a protein.

39. (original) The method of claim 26, wherein the test agent comprises a surface of a cell, a vesicle, a phantom cell, a cell-vesicle, a liposome, a giant vesicle, a lipid-covered glass bead, or a component of any thereof.

40. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the bulk aqueous phase further comprises a second test agent, ~~in and~~ said method further comprising determining whether said second test agent affects the interaction of the test agent with the lipid bilayer-associated component.

41. (original) The method of claim 26, wherein the bulk aqueous phase further comprises a second test agent, and further comprising determining whether said second test agent affects the interaction of the test agent with the lipid bilayer-associated component.